

Amendment
Application No. 10/581,209
Attorney Docket No. 062523

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended herein. Claim 2 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of original claim 2, and claims 3 and 4 have been amended to provide for proper dependency based on the cancellation of claim 2.

Applicant's Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a):

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nagasawa, and claim 4/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagasawa in view of Ishikawa et al. In response thereto, applicants have amended claim 1 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, applicants have included the elements of allowable claim 2 into claim 1. Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot.


In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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